UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/701
1 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 64

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Report of the First Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter GOOSEN (South Africa)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

"(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

"(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

"(c) Status of multilateral disarmament agreements;

"(d) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

"(e) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

"(f) Implementation of the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters;

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* For the report of the Committee on item 64 (f), which was considered together with item 53, see A/49/690.

"(g) Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures"

was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/92 H of 9 December 1981, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, 44/119 G of 15 December 1989, 45/62 F and G of 4 December 1990, 46/38 A to D of 6 September 1991, 47/54 A, E and F of 9 December 1992 and 48/77 A and B of 16 December 1993.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 October 1994, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 53 to 66, 68 to 72 and 153. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 10th meetings, from 17 to 24 October (see A/C.1/49/PV.3-10). Structured discussions of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach took place from 25 to 27 and on 31 October and 1 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 12th to 16th meetings, on 3, 4, 7 and 9 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.12-16). Action on draft resolutions on those items was taken at the 19th to 25th meetings, from 14 to 18 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.19-25).

4. In connection with item 64, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission; 2/

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures (A/49/210 and Add.1);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters (A/49/225);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/49/360);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of multilateral disarmament agreements (A/49/379);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/49/329);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/49/27).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 42 (A/49/42).

(h) Letter dated 25 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo from 31 May to 3 June 1994 (A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1);

(i) Letter dated 17 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/532-S/1994/1179).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.1

5. On 24 October, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted a draft resolution entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures" (A/C.1/49/L.1). For the consideration of and action taken on the draft resolution, see A/49/690.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.5 and Rev.1

6. On 31 October, Austria, Benin, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Jordan, Mauritius, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden and Ukraine submitted a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/49/L.5).

7. On 14 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/49/L.5/Rev.1), which contained the following changes:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Noting the proposal for reconsidering the subject entitled 'The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields' by the Disarmament Commission in the near future",

was revised to read:

"Noting the various suggestions for possible consideration by the Disarmament Commission, at an appropriate future date, including in particular the one for reconsideration of the subject 'The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields'";

(b) Operative paragraph 10, which had read:

"10. Recommends also that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1994 organizational session, consider including in the agenda of its 1995

substantive session an item entitled 'General guidelines for non-proliferation, with special emphasis on weapons of mass destruction' or 'Review of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade.'",

was revised to read:

"10. Also recommends that, pursuant to the adopted three-item phased approach, the Disarmament Commission, at its 1994 organizational session, consider including in the agenda of its 1995 substantive session a new third item and, in this context, notes, inter alia, the following proposals: 'General guidelines for non-proliferation, with special emphasis on weapons of mass destruction' and 'Review of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade'".

8. At its 21st meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.5/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution A).

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.7 and Rev.1

9. On 31 October, Chile submitted a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/49/L.7). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Chile at the 16th meeting, on 9 November.

10. On 14 November, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Iraq, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/49/L.7/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by Israel and Sierra Leone. The revised draft contained the following changes:

(a) The title of the draft resolution was changed to "Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament";

(b) In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "enlarged membership is essential" were replaced by the words "enlarged membership is desirable";

(c) Operative paragraph 1, which had read:

"1. Welcomes the report of 12 August 1993 of the Special Coordinator for membership designated by the Conference on Disarmament and the list of countries attached to that report, as well as the subsequent statement made by the Special Coordinator on 23 August 1993, recommending a dynamic solution to the question of membership",

was revised to read:

"1. Recalls the report of 12 August 1993 of the Special Coordinator for membership designated by the Conference on Disarmament and the subsequent statement made by the Special Coordinator on 23 August 1993, recommending a dynamic solution to the question of membership";

(d) Operative paragraph 2, which had read:

"2. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a solution resulting, by the beginning of 1995, in a significant expansion of its composition, which would then include at least sixty countries, as recommended by the Special Coordinator",

was revised to read:

"2. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a solution resulting, by the beginning of 1995, in a significant expansion of its composition, which would include at least sixty countries".

11. At the 22nd meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Chile made the following oral revisions:

(a) The last preambular paragraph became operative paragraph 1, the word "Recognizing" being replaced with the word "Recognizes";

(b) Existing operative paragraphs 1 and 2 were renumbered 2 and 3;

(c) At the end of the new operative paragraph 2, after the word "membership", the words "as well as the report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 1994 session" were added.

12. At its 22nd meeting, on 17 November, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.7/Rev.1, as orally revised without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution B).

D. Draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.17 and Rev.1

13. On 1 November, the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/49/L.17).

14. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 16th meeting, on 9 November.

15. On 14 November, the sponsor submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/49/L.17/Rev.1).

16. In connection with the revised draft resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a statement of programme budget implications (A/C.1/49/L.51).

17. At the 25th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran orally revised the draft resolution by adding a new operative paragraph 5, reading:

"5. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a solution on the expansion of its membership by the beginning of its 1995 session";

and renumbering the subsequent paragraphs.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.17/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution C).

E. Draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.21

19. On 1 November, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures" (A/C.1/49/L.21), which was later also sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, the Czech Republic, Kenya, Lithuania, Malta, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Germany at the 16th meeting, on 9 November.

20. At its 22nd meeting, on 17 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.21 by a recorded vote of 132 to none, with 16 abstentions (see para. 21, resolution D). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, India, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Venezuela.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

21. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

A

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the annual report of the Disarmament Commission, 3/

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993 and 48/77 A of 16 December 1993,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Noting the various suggestions for possible consideration by the Disarmament Commission, at an appropriate future date, including in particular the one for reconsideration of the subject "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields",

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Disarmament Commission; 3/

2. Notes with regret that the Disarmament Commission was unable to achieve agreement on guidelines and recommendations on the agenda item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields", consideration of which was concluded in 1994;

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/49/42).

3. Notes the continuing consideration by the Disarmament Commission of the agenda item entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons", which is to be concluded in 1995;

4. Notes also that the Disarmament Commission held a preliminary exchange of views on the agenda item entitled "International arms transfers, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991";

5. Reaffirms the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. Reaffirms also the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

7. Encourages the Disarmament Commission to continue to make every effort to enhance its working methods so as to enable it to give focused consideration to a limited number of priority issues in the field of disarmament, bearing in mind the decision it has taken to move its agenda towards a three-item phased approach;

8. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 4/ and with paragraph 3 of resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission"; 5/

9. Recommends that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1994 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 1995 substantive session:

(a) Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons;

(b) International arms transfers, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991;

10. Also recommends that, pursuant to the adopted three-item phased approach, the Disarmament Commission, at its 1994 organizational session, consider including in the agenda of its 1995 substantive session a new third item and, in this context, notes, inter alia, the following proposals: "General

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4/ Resolution S-10/2.

5/ A/CN.10/137.

guidelines for non-proliferation, with special emphasis on weapons of mass destruction" and "Review of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade";

11. Requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1995 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, 6/ together with all the official records of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

B

Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 6/

Conscious of the need for a comprehensive approach to the disarmament process and for improved functioning and efficiency of the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery, as also envisaged in the report of the Secretary-General on new dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era, 7/

Recalling its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 48/77 B of 16 December 1993, concerning, inter alia, the ongoing review by the Conference on Disarmament of its agenda, composition and methods of work, which highlighted the need for substantial enlargement of the present membership of the Conference,

Fully convinced that an enlarged membership is desirable in order to take advantage of the current propitious international climate to negotiate, on the solid basis of a more representative participation, a comprehensive test-ban treaty and other important agreements requiring universal adherence,

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6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/49/27).

7/ A/C.1/47/7.

Recalling that the Conference on Disarmament, which is funded from the regular budget, was granted, pursuant to resolution 48/77 B, supplementary administrative, substantive and conference support services, inter alia, in anticipation of its expansion,

Recalling also its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 regarding the establishment of the Conference on Disarmament, then the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament,

Emphasizing the fact that, notwithstanding dramatic changes in the international situation and continuous consultations, there has been no expansion of the membership of the Conference during the last fifteen years,

Welcoming the fact that the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament reflects the intention of the Conference to reinstate its own procedures providing for periodic review of its composition,

Regretting, however, that the Conference on Disarmament did not reach a consensus that would result in the expansion of its membership before the start of the 1994 session of the Conference, as urged by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/77 B, nor was it able to resolve this question thereafter, in spite of intensive efforts by the Friend of the Chair,

1. Recognizes the legitimate aspirations of the candidate countries to participate fully in the work of the Conference on Disarmament;

2. Recalls the report of 12 August 1993 of the Special Coordinator for membership designated by the Conference on Disarmament 8/ and the subsequent statement made by the Special Coordinator on 23 August 1993, recommending a dynamic solution to the question of membership, as well as the report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 1994 session;

3. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a solution resulting, by the beginning of 1995, in a significant expansion of its composition, which would then include at least sixty countries.

C

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 6/

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

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8/ CD/1214; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/48/27), para. 13.

Considering, in this respect, that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

Welcoming the ongoing negotiations of the Conference on Disarmament on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Noting with satisfaction the results achieved so far on the subject of improved and effective functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the decision to carry out consultations with a view to achieving consensus on the issue of its membership by the beginning of its 1995 session and the decision to continue consultations on the issue of the agenda at its 1995 session,

Recognizing that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important areas for negotiations,

1. Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. Welcomes the determination of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to continue as a priority task its negotiations to conclude a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

4. Notes the recommendation of the Conference on Disarmament that the balance of its future work be considered more fully by the Conference before it decides which ad hoc committees, besides the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, should be established in 1995;

5. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a solution on the expansion of its membership by the beginning of its 1995 session;

6. Encourages the ongoing review of the agenda, membership and methods of work of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision, to the Conference on Disarmament, of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

D

Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/78 H of 7 December 1988, in which it endorsed the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures and for the implementation of such measures on a global or regional level, and its resolution 47/54 D, adopted without a vote on 9 December 1992,

Noting that since then national reports on the implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Reconfirming its support for the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures and for the implementation of such measures on a global or regional level,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security, as endorsed by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, refer, inter alia, to confidence- and security-building measures in the context of maintaining and enhancing regional peace and security,

Welcoming progress at the global level in the promotion of transparency in the military field as a cornerstone for confidence-building, through the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, contained in resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, the endorsement of the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, contained in resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, and the establishment of the Register of Conventional Arms under resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991,

Noting with satisfaction the encouraging results of specific confidence-building measures agreed upon and implemented in some regions which foster mutual trust and understanding, defuse tensions and promote friendly relations among States,

Welcoming, in particular, the establishment of regional mechanisms, institutions or forums entrusted with the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts, and the development of confidence-building measures,

Recognizing the value of regional workshops, seminars and conferences on regional confidence-building and security, contributing to regional disarmament and security,

Reaffirming the great importance of increasing security and stability in all regions through appropriate measures to strengthen international peace and security,

Realizing with deep concern, however, that tensions in some regions rise and that even violent armed conflicts have erupted and continue, in some cases, despite all peacemaking and peace-keeping efforts,

Emphasizing that confidence-building measures, especially when applied in a comprehensive manner, can be conducive to achieving structures of security based on cooperation and openness and thus contribute to the wider objective of the renunciation of the threat or use of force,

1. Stresses the need for the development and implementation of confidence-building measures as a concrete means to facilitate the disarmament and arms limitation process and to improve the prospects for the peaceful settlement of disputes, thus contributing to maintaining and enhancing regional and international peace and security;

2. Recommends the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures to all States for implementation, taking fully into account the specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region;

3. Also recommends to all States and regions that have already started to implement confidence-building measures to pursue further and strengthen this process;

4. Appeals to all States to consider the widest possible use of confidence-building measures in their international relations, including bilateral, regional and global activities, as an important step towards prevention of conflict and, in times of political tension and crisis, as an instrument for peaceful settlement of conflicts;

5. Calls upon, in particular, all States in whose regions military tensions exist, or armed conflicts occur, to make the best possible use of confidence-building measures, among other appropriate activities, and if needed in cooperation with other States, to ease tensions and to contribute to peacemaking and peace-building;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to collect relevant information from all Member States;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session an item entitled "Confidence-building measures".